

II. REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-36 will be pending in this application of which claims 1 and 24 are independent. Claims 1, 8, and 24 are amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification as filed (e.g., Figure 1; page 2, lines 12-21). Therefore, the applicants believe that no new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

The applicants respectfully entry of the foregoing amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Should the examiner maintain the final rejection, the amendments to the claims will place the application in better form for appeal. This response is timely is filed as it is accompanied by a petition for an extension of time to file in the third month and the required fee.

Patentability Remarks

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) –

Claims 1-5 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by McMenamin (EP 0 040 540). The applicants respectfully traverse.

As amended, claim 1 is directed to, *inter alia*, a pressure control unit that is completely independent of the temperature control unit. As amended, claim 24 is directed to, *inter alia*, controlling the partial pressure of the raw material to be constant completely separated from the control of the temperature. These claim limitations are not taught by McMenamin. Therefore, McMenamin cannot anticipate claims 1-5 and 24 and the applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) –

Claims 6, 7, 16-23, and 27-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McMenamin in view of Saitoh *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,250,097). The applicants respectfully traverse.

These claims are all directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1. McMenamin does not teach or suggest many limitations of the applicants' invention as claimed, e.g., at least one reaction vessel where the raw material in gas phase is supplied and the glass base material is

formed by hydrolyzing the raw material in gas-phase (claim 6); wherein said reaction vessel has a cooling unit that circulates cooling water which contains an anticorrosive chemical (claim 16); and controlling a flow rate of the raw material in the gas phase, and supplying and hydrolyzing the flow rate controlled raw material in the gas phase (claim 27).

Saitoh *et al.* do not overcome the deficiencies of McMenamin. For instance, there is no mention of pressure control in Saitoh *et al.* Therefore, the combination of McMenamin and Saitoh *et al.* does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 6, 7, 16-23, and 27-36 and the applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

Claims 8-15 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McMenamin in view of Saitoh *et al.*, and in further view of JP 9-110457. The applicants respectfully traverse.

Neither McMenamin nor Saitoh *et al.* teach or suggest all the limitations of the amended claims. The examiner is using JP 9-110457 because it describes a filter for gas feeds. However, JP 9-110457 does not overcome the deficiencies in either McMenamin, Saitoh *et al.*, or the combination thereof. Consequently, claims 8-15 and 26 are not unpatentable over McMenamin, Saitoh *et al.*, and JP 9-110457 and the applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue that the examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the examiner is strongly urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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